

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
71-9

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
35

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **149 Maquan Street**

Historic Name **Smith House**

Use: Present **residence**

Original **residence**

Date **before 1830 ; c. 1780-1800**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Federal/double house**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **stone & granite**

Wall/Trim **clapboard**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **yes, see description**

Major Alterations **none**

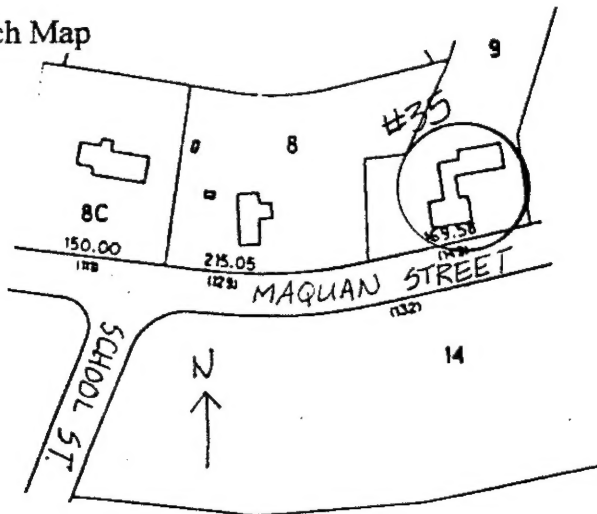
Condition **excellent**

Moved **no**

Acreage **2.00 acres**

Setting **village**

Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **May 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

The Smith House at 149 Maquan Street is a rare example in Hanson of a large-scale, two-and-one-half story double house in the Federal style. This house type was generally used by a community's wealthiest citizens in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The well-preserved, five-bay wide Smith House exhibits a number of characteristic features. These include a double pile of rooms opening off a central through passage with the chimneys located in the building's interior, one in each tier, each enclosing two fireplaces. The main mass is augmented by a one-story gabled rear ell that connects to an elongated, one-and-one-half story wing. This wing, in turn, connects the ell to the perpendicularly sited gabled carriage house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The area near the intersection of Indian Head and Maquan streets has had a cluster of residential settlement since the late eighteenth century, including several large-scale houses. The Smith House is one of two remaining houses from that period of development. Historic maps identify J. Smith as the owner in 1830. White indicates the house was constructed by Captain Joseph Smith (1740-1811) in the post-revolutionary period but further research is necessary to confirm Smith is the house's original builder. The physical evidence that suggests expansions raises the possibility of an earlier date of construction. The house remained in the Smith family until sometime after the 1930s. By the end of the nineteenth century the house was owned by Hanson's well-known physician, Dr. Flavel S. Thomas (1852-1922). Trained at Harvard Medical School and The Montreal Veterinary College, Thomas established his Hanson practice in 1879. His wife Caroline M.T. Smith was the great granddaughter of Joseph Smith. Dr. Thomas also ran the Maquan Sanitorium at this location. An advertisement in the Pictorial History, vol. I for the sanitorium indicates the facility opened in 1894 for the treatment of chronic diseases, especially "nervous prostration" and "diseases of women." Mrs. Thomas still owned the house in the early 1930s.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Hurd, History of Plymouth County
- Hanson Historical Society, A Pictorial History of Hanson, vol. I

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Hanson

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Architectural Description, continued.

Characteristic of the Federal style, the modest decorative detailing emphasizes the window and door openings. Detailing includes a boxed cornice, corner boards and molded window surrounds on the 12/12 double-hung sash windows. The present Federal door surround of semi-circular arch, fluted pilasters and shutters is a modern replacement of an earlier Greek Revival one as seen in historic photos. Historic photos also illustrate the how modern alterations have transformed the wing and carriage house. The street elevation of the wing, now a solid wall, once had a window at the first bay and a large sliding door at the second bay. The barn's gable end had a similar door at the first bay with a pair of windows centered in the gable end above.

Some exterior physical evidence suggests the house may have been originally three-bays wide and was expanded to five bays in the nineteenth century. The evidence includes different foundation materials under each half, different fenestration spacing on each half, different chimney stacks, and a seeming break at the cornice line to the right of the entry. Further physical examination of the house's interior structure would be necessary to confirm this. None of the local histories indicate the house was expanded. Characteristic of the period of construction, the house is sited close to the roadway, surrounded by a variety of mature plantings.



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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.